

**REMARKS**

No amendments have been made to the claims or the specification. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-38, 50, 52-55, and 57-59 are currently pending in the application.

The Office Action states that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-38, 52-55 and 57-59 have been allowed. However, rejections were also issued for claims 52, 53, and 55, and it appears that these claims should not have been listed as being allowed. Thus Applicants believe that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-38, 54, and 57-59 have been allowed, and claims 50, 52, 53, and 55 have been rejected.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 50, 52, 53, and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Fain, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,340,515 ("Fain") in view of Younes, U.S. Patent No. 4,886,700 ("Younes"). The Office Action essentially asserts that Fain discloses providing a mold, while Younes discloses a silanized mold.

The Office Action has not pointed to a suggestion or motivation in either Fain or Younes to combine these references, as is required in 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Office Action states that "Fain is silent [regarding] disclosing silanizing the mold," yet concludes that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to silanize the mold in order to "enhance the removal of the molded product from the mold," and that such a combination "would be expect[ed] to easily release ceramic mold products such as those disclosed by Fain, since [the] Younes mold is used for making ceramic products." (The Office Action also mentions an inert atmosphere, which is not relevant to the claims currently rejected.) However, the Office Action has not pointed to a disclosure or suggestion in Fain or any other prior art to substantiate its conclusions with regard to motivation, i.e., that support the notion that one of ordinary skill in the art would be led to Younes in order to enhance the removal of products from molds, and the Office Action thus appears to be using impermissible hindsight in formulating its rejections, based on a reading of the Applicants' own specification, to provide the suggestion or motivation required under §103(a).

Even assuming, for the sake of argument, that Fain and Younes could be combined in the manner suggested in the Office Action (which Applicants do not concede) it is not seen how the combination of Fain and Younes would reach the claimed invention. Although Younes discloses the use of mold formulations including external or internal mold release agent such as

dimethylsiloxanes, it is not seen where in Fain or Younes is there a disclosure or suggestion of *silanizing* a mold surface. In Younes, the mold release agents are included with the compression molding formulations in order to form the laminated compositions. It is not seen where a reaction that *silanizes* a surface of a mold occurs, nor is there a disclosure of a mold that has been *silanized*. In Younes, it appears that the mold release agents cause release due to a lowering of physical absorption, rather than a reaction that occurs between the mold release agents and the mold surface.

Thus, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 50, 52, 53, and 55 be withdrawn.

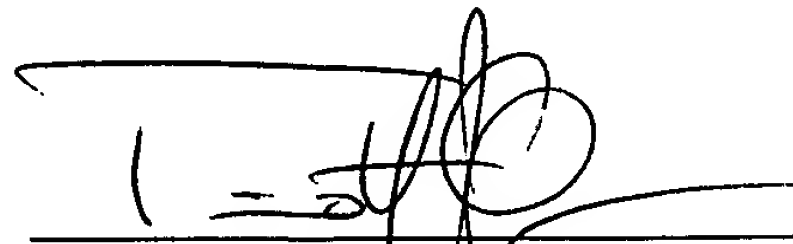
### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representatives at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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